

T H E
M E S S I A H,
A
S A C R E D
O R A T O R I O,
AS PERFORM'D AT THE
O C T A G O N C H A P E L,
I N
M I L S O M - S T R E E T , B A T H .



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M.DCC.LXXI.





M E S S I A H,

A N

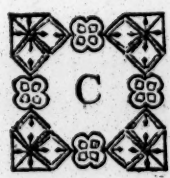
O R A T O R I O.



P A R T the F I R S T.

O V E R T U R E.

RECITATIVE accompanied.

OMFORT ye my people faith
your God, speak ye comfortably
to Jerusalem, and cry unto her,
that her warfare is accomplish'd,
that her iniquity is pardon'd.

The voice of him that crieth in the wil-
derness, prepare ye the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for
our God.

A I R.

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low, the crooked straight, and the rough places plain.

C H O R U S.

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

R E C I T. acc.

Thus faith the Lord of Hosts, yet once a little while and I will shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land, and I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come.

The Lord whom ye seek shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant whom ye delight in; behold he shall come faith the Lord of Hosts.

A I R.

But who may abide the day of his coming, and who shall stand when he appeareth, for he is like a refiner's fire.

C H O R U S.

And he shall purify the sons of Levi, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.

R E C I T.

Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name *Immanuel*; God with us.

A I R.

O! thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountains, O! thou that tellest good tidings to Jerufalem, lift up thy voice with strength, lift it up, be not afraid, say unto the cities of Judah, behold your God: O! thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, arise, shine, for the light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

C H O R U S.

O! thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, O! thou that tellest good tidings to Jerufalem, arise, say unto the cities of Judah, behold your God, behold! the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

R E C I T. acc.

For behold! darkness shall cover the earth,
and gross darkness the people, but the Lord
shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be
seen upon thee, and the Gentiles shall come
to thy light, and kings to the brightness of
thy rising.

C H O R U S.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a
son is given, and the government shall be
upon his shoulders, and his name shall be
called, *Wonderful! Counsellor! the Prince
of Peace!*

P A S T O R A L S Y M P H O N Y.

R E C I T.

There were shepherds abiding in the
fields, keeping watch over their flocks by
night.

R E C I T. acc.

But lo! the angel of the Lord came upon
them, and the glory of the Lord shone round
about them, and they were fore afraid.

R E C I T.

And the angel said unto them, fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people, for unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

R E C I T. acc.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly hosts, praising God and saying

C H O R U S.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, Good-will towards men.

A I R.

Rejoice greatly, O! daughter of Zion, shout, O! daughter of Jerusalem, behold thy king cometh unto thee; for he is the righteous Saviour, and he shall speak peace unto the Heathen.

R E C I T.

Then shall the eyes of the blind be open'd, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing.

A I R.

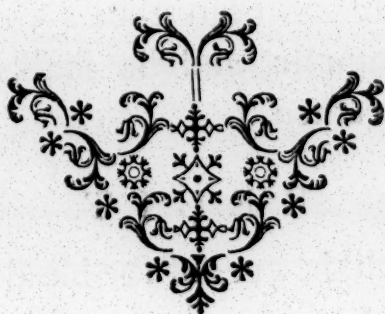
He shall feed his flock like a shepherd,
and he shall gather the lambs with his arm,
and carry them in his bosom, and gently
lead those that are with young.

Come unto him all ye that labour, come
unto him ye that are heavy laden, and he
will give you rest; take his yoke upon you
and learn of him, for he is meek and lowly
of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your
souls.

C H O R U S.

His yoke is easy, his burthen is light.

End of the First Part.





PART the' SECOND.

C H O R U S.

BEHOLD the Lamb of God, that
taketh away the sin of the world.

A I R.

He was despised and rejected of men, a
man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

C H O R U S.

Surely! He hath born our griefs and
carried our sorrows, he was wounded for
our transgressions, he was bruised for our
iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was
upon him.

C H O R U S.

And with his stripes we are healed.

B

C H O R U S.

All we like sheep have gone astray, we
have turned every one to his own way.

And the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity
of us all.

R E C I T. acc.

All they that see him laugh him to scorn,
they shoot out their lips and shake their
heads, saying,

C H O R U S.

He trusted in God that he might deliver
him, let him deliver him, if he delight in
him.

R E C I T. acc.

Thy rebuke hath broken his heart, he is
full of heaviness, he looked for some to have
pity on him, but there was no man, neither
found he any to comfort him.

A I R.

Behold and see if there be any sorrow like
unto his sorrow.

R E C I T. acc.

He was cut off out of the land of the
living, for the transgressions of thy people
was he stricken.

A I R.

But thou didst not leave his soul in hell,
nor didst thou suffer thy Holy One to see
corruption.

C H O R U S.

Lift up your heads! O ye gates, and be
ye lift up ye everlasting doors, and the
king of glory shall come in: Who is the
king of glory? the Lord strong and mighty,
the Lord mighty in battle, the Lord of
Hosts; he is the King of Glory.

R E C I T.

Unto which of the angels said he at any
time, thou art my son, this day have I
begotten thee?

C H O R U S.

Let all the angels of God worship him.

A I R.

Thou art gone up on high, thou hast led
captivity captive, and received gifts for men;
yea, even for thine enemies, that the Lord
God might dwell among them.

C H O R U S.

The Lord gave the word!

Great was the company of the preachers.

D U E T T O.

How beautiful are the feet of him that
bringeth glad tidings, tidings of falvation,
that sayeth unto Zion, *thy God reigneth.*

C H O R U S.

Break forth into joy, glad tidings, break
forth into joy ! how beautiful are the feet of
him that bringeth glad tidings, tidings of
falvation, that sayeth unto Zion, *thy God
reigneth.*

A I R.

Their found is gone out into all the
lands, and their words unto the ends of the
world.

A I R.

Why do the nations so furiously rage to-
gether ; why do the people imagine a vain
thing ?

The kings of the earth rise up, and the
rulers take council together against the
Lord, and against his anointed.

Da Capo.

C H O R U S.

Let us break their bonds afunder, and cast
away their yokes from us.

R E C I T.

He that dwelleth in heaven shall laugh
them to scorn; the Lord shall have them
in derision.

A I R.

Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron,
thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's
vessel.

C H O R U S.

Hallelujah! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth; the kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever, King of kings and Lord of lords. Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

End of the Second Part.



P A R T the T H I R D.

A I R.

I Know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth; and tho' worms shall destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God; for now is Christ risen from the dead, the first fruits of them that sleep.

QUARTETTO.

Since by man came death.

CHORUS.

By man came also the resurrection of the dead.

QUARTETTO.

For as in Adam all die.

CHORUS.

Even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

R E C I T. acc.

Behold I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in

a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.

A I R.

The trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be rais'd incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

R E C I T.

Then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, *Death is swallowed up in Victory.*

D U E T T O.

O! death, where is thy sting? O! grave, where is thy victory? the sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

C H O R U S.

But thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

A I R.

If God is for us, who can be against us; who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth; who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died; yea, rather that is risen again; who is at the right hand of God; who maketh intercession for us.

C H O R U S.

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and
hath redeemed us to God by his blood.

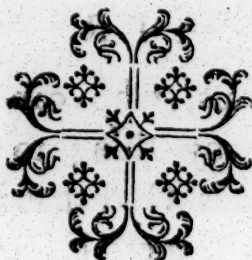
To receive power, and riches, and wisdom,
and strength, and honor, and glory,
and blessing.

C H O R U S.

Blessing and honor, glory and power, be
unto him that sitteth upon the throne; and
unto him that sitteth upon the throne; and
unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

C H O R U S.

Amen, Amen, Amen.



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